

**ABSTRACT**  
**MODIFYING A DATA FILE REPRESENTING A DOCUMENT WITHIN A**  
**LINKED HIERARCHY OF DOCUMENTS**

5       A data processing system for processing documents that include hypertext  
links (118, 120) to other documents within a hierarchy of documents. A target  
document being accessed is searched for components (124, 126) that are present in  
one or more linked documents higher in the hierarchy than the target document. If  
such repeated components are identified, then they are removed from the target  
10   document. Avoiding repeated components reduces the transmission bandwidth and  
processing requirements as well as the display requirements for the device accessing  
the document.